

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6088
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 1501

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

VIENNA FOR MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC, NATO, NPG, MBFR, UNDC, DA
SUBJECT: DANISH PARLIAMENT'S STANCE ON NEUTRON BOMB

1. YESTERDAY'S (MARCH 2) FOLKETING DEBATE ON
DISARMAMENT ENDED WITH A STRONG MAJORITY BACKING THE GOVERN-
MENT'S POSITION ON THE NEUTRON BOMB AS PRESENT BY
DEPUTY FONMIN LISE ØSTERGAARD. (128 VOTES (OUT OF 179) FOR,
WITH ONLY THE TWO PARTIES OF THE EXTREME LEFT VOTING AGAINST AND
THE JUSTICE PARTY ABSTAINING).

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2. THE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE WAS INTRODUCED IN TWO RESOLUTIONS
TABLED BY THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARY AND THE COMMUNISTS. BOTH
CALLED FOR THE FOLKETING TO CONDEMN THE MANUFACTURE AND SPREAD
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TO DIRECT THE GOVERNMENT TO OPPOSE IN
THE NATO NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ER/RB
WEAPONS IN THE NATO ARSENAL.

3. IN HER REBUTTAL OF THE COMMUNISTS RESOLUTIONS, DEPUTY FONMIN OSTERGAARD ARGUED THAT NO SINGLE WEAPON SHOULD BE ISOLATED FOR DISCUSSION OUTSIDE THE LARGER CONTEXT OF DISARMAMENT. FURTHERMORE, A DANISH CONDEMNATION OF THE ER/RB WEAPON NOW WOULD HAMPER DANISH INITIATIVES IN INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS LATER. HOWEVER, SHE REPORTEDLY DID REFER TO BOTH THE NEUTRON BOMB AND THE SOVIET SS-20 AS "HORRIBLE" WEAPONS.

4. DEPUTY FONMIN OSTERGAARD ALSO STATED THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO WORK FOR CONCRETE RESULTS AT THE UNSSOD. SHE OUTLINED AS THE HIGHEST PRIORITIES A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO SALT II AND A REDUCTION OF THE SUPER-POWERS' ATOMIC WEAPON ARSENALS. SHE NAMED AS FURTHER GOALS AN END TO WEAPON TESTING AND A BAN ON CHEMICAL AND RADIATION WEAPONS.

5. COMMENT: THE LARGE MAJORITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITIONS INDICATES SUPPORT AT LEAST IN PARLIAMENT FOR THE POSITION THE DANES HAVE TAKEN THUS FAR ON THE NEUTRON BOMB. THIS WAS ALSO THE FIRST TIME THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLICLY POINTED TO THE SS-20 AS A WEAPON EQUALLY AS "HORRIBLE" AS THE NEUTRON BOMB.

DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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